[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance for Abolition of Devdasi System to Maharashtra and Karnataka

3477. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra and Karnataka have demanded financial assistance for programme relating to abolition of Devdasi system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to them during 1992-93;

(d) whether the Union Government have any scheme for helping the old Devdasis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (e). No, Sir. However, Western Maharashtra Development Corporation, Pune and the State Government of Karnataka had sought financial assistance for rehabilitation of Devdasis during 1987-88. An amount of Rs. 11.30 lacs was sanctioned to Western Maharashtra Development Corporation, Pune for providing training in the trade of knitting to 20 Devadasis at Jath in Sangli District and 45 Devadasis at Gandhinglaj in Kolhapur Distt. The proposal from the State Government of Karnataka to train 155 Devdasis could not be considered as it was incomplete. While there is no specific scheme exclusively for helping old Devadasis, they can be conserved for assistance under the various schemes of Government of India, if otherwise eligible.

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: I think yesterday the Members sat upto 2 0' clock in the night because we wanted to give an opportunity to them to express their views. I was tole that yesterday it was decided that immediately after the Question Hour, the Railway Minister/s speech would start. This was the agreement. After his reply, we can take the regular business.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: (Bolpur) We objection, provided he agrees to our proposals.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this regard I would like to submit that Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad said yesterday that the hon. Minister wold give his reply tomorrow just after the Question hour. Today the hon. Members have this impression that there will be Zero hour for some time and the division will take place at 2.00 P.M. There are many other issues which are also to be taken up such as we have given notice of cut motion on the dismissal of employees and that is why we have asked our Members to be present in the House at 2.00 P.M. Therefore, on behalf of the Opposition Members I would like to say that by all means the hon. Minister should make his reply by 2.00 P.M. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum dum): Yesterday, the announcement was that the reply as well as voting would take place at 2 o' clock.